

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00572 01 OF 02 181455Z

47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 080457

P R 181154Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2680

INFO /AMEMBASSY AMMAN 427

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DAMASCUS 0572

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (SOLARZ, STEPHEN)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ

1. SUMMARY: MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF SOLARZ VISIT WAS HIS RAISING QUESTION OF EMIGRATION OF THRITY SYRIAN JEWS TO US FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS. ASAD NON-EMOTIONALLY DENIED REQUEST BUT SAID US JEWS ARE WELCOME TO VISIT SYRIAN RELATIVES HERE. SOLARZ INTENDS TO MAKE STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT UPON HIS RETURN TO US. EMBASSY BELIEVES SOLARZ VISIT PROVIDED USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO VENTILATE ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. FIRST-TERM CONGRESSMAN STEPHEN SOLARZ (DEM.-BROOKLYN) VISITED DAMASCUS FEB 12-13, 1975. ARRIVING AT 2:30 A.M. FROM CAIRO, HE REUQUESTED IMMEDIATE BRIEFING FROM AMBASSADOR WHICH CONTINUED UNTIL 5:30 A.M.

3. SOLARZ' FIRST CALL LATER SAME MORNING WAS ON BRIG. GENERAL TAYYARA, SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVE TO ISMAC AND UNDOF, WHO DISCUSSED KUNEITRA, SITUATION ON GOLAN, STATUS OF DISENGAGEMENT AND HISTORY OF DEMILITARIZED ZONES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA. TAYYARA AFFIRMED THAT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 00572 01 OF 02 181455Z

WITH EXCEPTION OF SYRIAN SHELLINGS OF CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS ON ONE

OCCASION IN 1965, SYRIANS IN PERIOD 1949-67 HAD DIRECTED FIRE ONLY AGAINST ISRAELI MILITARY PERSONNEL AND INSTALLATIONS IN THE DMZ WHERE THEIR PRESENCE FORBIDDEN BY THE TRUCE AGREEMENTS. AT NOON, SOLARZ CALLED ON MININFORMATION ISKANDAR AHMAD AND AT 1:00 P.M. MET WITH FONMIN KHADDAM. HE WAS CALLED AWAY FROM LUNCHEON WITH MEMBERS OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AND FOREIGN MINISTRY TO MEET FOR TWO HOURS WITH PRESIDENT ASAD IN AFTERNOON. THAT EVENING, AFTER HAVING FRANKLY DESCRIBED HIS UNEASINESS ABOUT "COMPLICATIONS", KHADDAM ARRANGED FOR SOLARZ TO VISIT A DAMASCUS SYNAGOGUE WITH ESCORTS FROM FOREIGN AND INTERIOR MINISTRIES. CONGRESSMAN THEN HAD PRIVATE DINNER WITH AMBASSADOR. (AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANIED CONGRESSMAN ON CALLS ON TAYYARA, KHADDAM AND ASAD.)

4. ON FEB 13, THE DAY OF SECRETARY'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS, CONGRESSMAN ATTENDED REGULAR THURSDAY MORNING SERVICE AT SYNAGOGUE, BREAKFASTED WITH MEMBERS OF SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY AT ALLIANCE SCHOOL AND VISITED KUNEITRA AND DAMASCUS SUQ. AT KUNEITRA HE WAS TOLD THAT ISRAELI MINES LEFT IN AND AROUND TOWN HAD NOW BEEN DISMANTLED. (HE DID NOT REVEAL HIS SOURCE AND THIS PARTICULAR POINT IS SUBJECT FURTHER INVESTIGATION.) IN SUQ HE WAS INTERVIEWED BY CBS MARVIN KALB, WHOM HE MET BY CHANCE AT LOCAL MERCHANT'S SHOP, AND BOUGHT SOUVENIR BRASS 105 MM ISRAELI SHELL CASE WHICH HAD BEEN DECORATED BY LOCAL ARTISANS. AT HIS REQUEST, HE DEPARTED WITH SECRETARY'S PARTY ABOARD SPECIAL USAF AIRCRAFT FOR TEL AVIV.

5. SOLARZ' INTERVIEWS WITH SYRIAN OFFICIALS ALL FOLLOWED SAME PATTERN. HE ASKED SERIES OF HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS AND CAREFULLY WROTE DOWN SYRIAN REPLIES. AMONG QUESTIONS HE ASKED WERE: (A) IF ISRAEL WITHDREW FROM ALL SYRIAN LAND, WOULD SYRIA SIGN PEACE TREATY? NO SYRIAN OFFICIAL REPLIED DIRECTLY. SYRIAN REPLIES ALL STATED MORE GENERALLY THAT SYRIA WANTED PEACE, ADDED REQUIREMENT OF JUSTICE FOR PALESTINIANS AND AFFIRMED IF ISRAEL IMPLEMENTED UN RESOLUTIONS THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM. DESPITE PROBING, HE COULD GET NO SYRIAN OFFICIAL TO SAY SYRIA WOULD SIGN PEACE TREATY UNDER ANY HYPOTHETICAL CIRCUMSTANCES; FONMIN NOTED SUBJECT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAMASC 00572 01 OF 02 181455Z

WAS TOO IMPORTANT TO ADDRESS IN HYPOTHETICAL CONTEXT. FONMIN ASKED IN RETURN WHETHER SOLARZ HAD BEEN TOLD BY GOI OFFICIALS THAT ISRAEL WAS PREPARED WITHDRAW FROM ALL SYRIAN LAND; SOLARZ REPLIED IN NEGATIVE. (B) IF ISRAEL GAVE PALESTINIANS WEST BANK AND GAZA, WOULD SYRIA ACCEPT CO-EXISTENCE? REPLIES DEFERRED TO PALESTINIANS TO DECIDE, BUT STATED THAT RETURN OF WEST BANK AND GAZA WOULD BE POSITIVE

STEP. (C) WOULD IT BE ACCEPTABLE TO NEGOTIATE SUCH RETURN OF LAND WITH KING HUSSEIN? REPLIES WERE NEGATIVE, CITING RABAT SUMMIT DECISION RECOGNIZING PLO AS SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIANS. (C) WHAT COULD SYRIAN OFFER IN RETURN FOR FURTHER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL? REPLIES DWELT ON CONTINUED SYRIAN WILLINGNESS TO MAKE PEACE, TO APPLY ALL ELEMENTS OF RES 242, BUT DID NOT CONTAIN ANY SPECIFIC POSSIBLE CONCESSIONS. SYRIANS ARGUED THAT SINCE ISRAEL WAS AGGRESSOR, SYRIA'S CONTINUED WILLINGNESS TO MAKE PEACE WAS ONLY "CONCESSION" NECESSARY.

6. AFTER POSING FOREGOING QUESTIONS TO KHADDAM AND AGAIN TO ASAD, SOLARZ THEN RAISED QUESTION OF EMIGRATION OF SYRIAN JEWS, IGNORING KHADDAM'S GROUND RULES FOR HIS VISIT, WHEN SCHEDULED IN DECEMBER, THAT HIS INQUIRIES BE RESTRICTED TO THE ME SITUATION AND US-SYRIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THAT HIS LOOKING INTO STATUS OF SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY WOULD BE REGARDED AS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL SYRIAN AFFAIRS. SOLARZ INTRODUCED ISSUE WITH ASAD BY SAYING THAT SINCE ASAD HAD SPOKEN OF TRADITIONAL EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF JEWS BY ARABS, HE WANTED TO RAISE A MATTER OF GREAT POLITICAL AND PERSONAL CONCERN. IN HIS CONSTITUENCY, SOLARZ SAID, HE REPRESENTED 25,000 SYRIAN JEWS. ON PURELY HUMANITARIAN BASIS HE WISHED TO BRING TO ASAD'S ATTENTION 30 JEWS IN SYRIA WHO HAD CLOSE FAMILY TIES TO JEWS IN CONGRESSMAN'S DISTRICT. THEY WERE FOR MOST PART ELDERLY INDIVIDUALS WHO WISHED TO JOIN RELATIVES BEFORE DEATH. IF SARG COULD SEE ITS WAY TO LETTING THSES PEOPLE DEPART, IT WOULD BE NOBLE GESTURE, CREATE ENORMOUS GOOD WILL FOR SYRIA IN US AND SUPPORT EFFORTS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER. SOLARZ SAID HE HAD NO DESIRE TO CREATE PROBLEM OR POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT FOR SYRIANS; ON CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 DAMASC 00572 01 OF 02 181455Z

CONTRARY HE WANTED TO PROMOTE HARMONIOUS RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00572 02 OF 02 181512Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 080706

P R 181145Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2681

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C 6\*#\*\*\*\*\*

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975DAMASC00572  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750057-0726  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750236/aaaabgft.tel  
**Line Count:** 182  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:** ANOMALY  
**Review Date:** 04 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <28 NOV 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VISIT OF CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ  
**TAGS:** OREP, (SOLARZ, STEPHEN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006